

Fastest-Growing Business & Computer Schools — ALEX Intelligence 2026

70.0% Growth in AI & Business Schools

Top U.S. metro sees explosive expansion in tech education — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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THE DATA

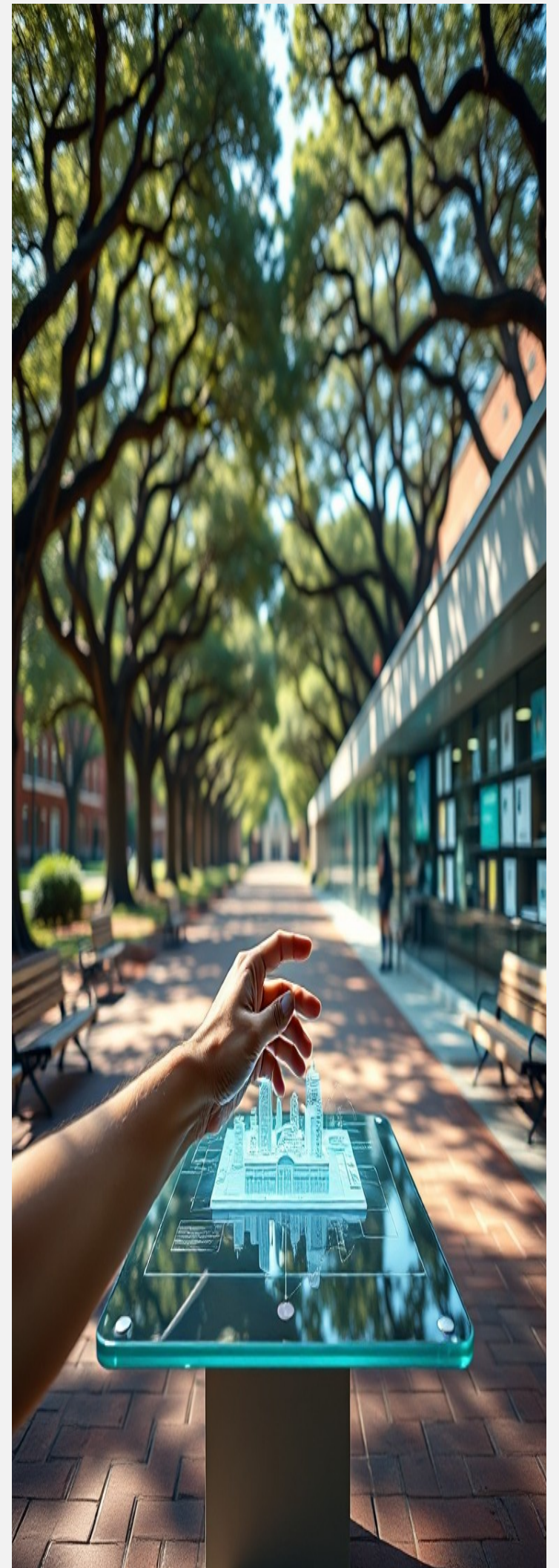
70.0%

Change in Business and Computer Schools Since 2019

North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota, FL leads the nation in growth of business and computer schools since 2019.

This 70.0% surge reflects a structural shift in where higher education is expanding—not in legacy academic hubs, but in emerging innovation corridors. The data signals that demand for AI-ready, workforce-aligned credentials is outpacing traditional university models in established cities. These growth centers are becoming the new incubators for digital labor markets.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2019 and 2022, NAICS 6114 (Business schools and computer and management training) • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-28-ai-higher-ed-igrow-6114-msa>



01

Education is Decentralizing

The top-performing metros are not centers of elite academia, but fast-growing, tech-adjacent regions with low barriers to entry. This reflects a broader trend: AI-driven education is no longer tethered to elite institutions or geographic privilege. Instead, it's migrating to markets where talent, infrastructure, and economic agility converge—especially in Sun Belt and Mountain West corridors. The future of higher education isn't in scaling existing universities—it's in building new ecosystems from scratch.

02

Growth ≠ Innovation

While 70.0% growth in business and computer schools is impressive, it doesn't guarantee quality or long-term relevance. The data shows demand is surging, but not necessarily aligned with sustainable workforce outcomes. The real risk lies in credential inflation—expanding access without ensuring competency, equity, or alignment with labor market needs. Without ethical AI auditing and outcome-based oversight, this expansion could deepen existing inequities rather than close them.



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